

the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) and (d) There are several villages all over the country including Uttar Pradesh which are located in forest areas. To expedite the processing of cases, the guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been relaxed for construction of link roads which directly benefit the people of the area by accepting compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area being diverted instead of insisting on equivalent non-forest land. Moreover, proposals upto 5 ha. are disposed of by the Chief Conservators of Forests (Central) of the Ministry. Proposals involving forest land between 5 to 20 ha. are processed by the Regional offices of the Ministry in consultation with the state level Advisory Group and sent to the Ministry to for final decision.

Export Agreement

2485. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board has signed any export agreement during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) During 1995-96, the Fruits and Vegetable Project, a pilot project, of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has signed an agreement for exports of fruits, vegetables products and other related products manufactured at the export oriented unit in Mumbai. The production from this unit would start in 1997-98. Also in 1995-96; Indian Immunologicals, another unit of the NDDB, has signed an agreement for promotion of biologicals and animal health products in Bangladesh. No exports have so far taken place.

[Translation]

Open Sale Prices of Wheat

2486. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the open sale price of wheat and rice recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) the reasons for this price hike in the open market price of wheat and rice; and

(d) its impact on the common man and farmers already hit by the high prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Open sale prices of wheat were increased in the month of February, 1997. The open sale prices of rice were last revised on 28.6.96 and were made effective from 1.7.96 and are still applicable.

(b) Statements indicating the open sale prices of wheat and rice as on date are at statement I and II respectively.

(c) Keeping in view the wide gap in the market prices vis-a-vis open sale prices notified by the Government to neutralise the freight element paid by FCI in moving wheat from procuring areas to consuming areas, to reduce the subsidy burden on open sale, and to discourage the traders from making undue profit, the Government decided to revise the open sale prices of wheat with effect from 4.2.1997. The prices of rice, however, have not been revised after July, 1996.

(d) The sales of wheat and rice in the open market have a sobering effect on the market prices. Had there not been open sales the price-rise would have been higher.

Statement-I

Statement Indicating Prices of wheat with effect from 4.2.1997 till further Orders.

S.No.	Name of the Major Centre	Rate Rs./per MT
1	2	3
1.	Guwahati	7500
2.	Mumbai	7400
3.	Nagpur	7400
4.	Indore	7200
5.	Gualior	6000
6.	Raipur	7400
7.	Ahmedabad	7300
8.	Surat	7300
9.	Cuttack	7400
10.	Bhubaneswar	7400
11.	Patna	6500
12.	Ranchi	7000
13.	Calcutta	7400
14.	Siliguri	7400
15.	Delhi	5000
16.	Chandigarh	4900
17.	Lucknow	5400
18.	Kanpur	5400

1	2	3
19.	Varanasi	6000
20.	Bareilly	5000
21.	Madras	7800
22.	Coimbatore	7800
23.	Madurai	7800
24.	Cochin	7900
25.	Trivandrum	7900
26.	Hyderabad	7500
27.	Visakhapatnam	7500
28.	Bangalore	7700
29.	Mysore	7700
30.	Belgaum	7700
31.	Jaipur	5200
32.	Shimla	5031
33.	Jammu	5200
34.	Srinagar	5300

In case of open sale at Depots at other centres, the rate fixed for nearest major centre shall apply.

Statement-II

Statement Indicating prices of rice with effect from 1.7.1996 till further Orders.

Rate Rs. PMT

S.No.	Name of the State	Fine	Superfine
1.	Punjab	7050	7350
2.	Haryana	7000	7300
3.	Uttar Pradesh	6900	7200
4.	Rajasthan	7500	7650
5.	Delhi	6740	7060
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	6680	7000
7.	West Bengal/Bihar Orissa/Madhya Pradesh/ Maharashtra/Gujarat/ Karnataka/Kerala/ Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu	7130	7450

For open sale for domestic consumption within 50 kms of port towns, rates as applicable in case of sale for export these port towns minus Rs. 50 per tonnes shall be applicable.

Tribals of Karnataka State

2487. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Tribals yet to

get allotted Land" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December, 26, 1996.

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to redress the grievances of these tribals; and

(d) the names of the Adivasis to whom the possession of land has since been given along with the total bighas of land given to each of them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaint appeared in Hindustan Times, dated 26th December, 1996. It is true that some tribal allottees were not getting simultaneous possession of land. The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment conducted a study in 10 districts of Karnataka which revealed that around 3% of the allottees did not get simultaneous possession of land alongwith the letter of allotment. The major reasons detected in the aforesaid studies include injunction of the Court and eventual delays in demarcation and identification of the allotted land on the part of the survey-Settlement department.

(c) The Ministry of Rural/Areas and Employment have advised all States to give simultaneous possession of land alongwith letter of allotment and to hand over possession wherever it has not yet been done, without any further lose of time. In this regard, number of resolutions were adopted in the conference of Revenue Ministers held in New Delhi on 28th January, 1997 which also emphasized the need for time-bound distribution and providing concurrent possession of the land to the allottees, and to take effective steps to distribute as well as restore possession to all allottees, including the tribals. Accordingly, the said recommendations have been communicated to all States including Karnataka.

(d) The names of Adivasis and land allotted to each of them are not maintained either at the State level or at the Central level. Such information is available only with grass-root level Revenue functionaries. However, since inception of the ceiling laws on agricultural holdings the total land allotted to the tribals in the State of Karnataka is only 3,578 acres benefitting 974 tribal families.

Sewage Treatment Plants

2488. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had earmarked Rs. 400 crore for setting up Sewage Treatment Plants in cities situated on the banks of the river Ganga for keeping its water clean;